REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 13, and 14 are currently pending in this application. By this response to the non-final Office Action mailed on June 17, 2008, claims 1, 10, 13, and 14 are amended, and claims 3, 12, and 15 canceled without prejudice. Support for the amendments is found in the specification and claims as originally filed. For example, claims 1, 10, and 13 are amended to respectively incorporate the limitations previously recited in claims 3, 12, and 15. No new matter has been introduced. Favorable reconsideration of the application in light of the foregoing amendments and following comments is respectfully solicited.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

On page 2 of the Office Action, claims 13-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. Applicants respectfully traverse.

On page 3 of the Office Action, Examiner suggested "amending the claim to embody 'a computer-readable medium on which a program is executed' or equivalent to make the claim statutory." Applicants have adopted Examiner's suggestion, amending claim 13 to recite "[a] computer-readable recording medium having recorded therein a program . . . the program, when executed by a computer, causing the computer to perform the steps of . . ." Dependent claim 14 is accordingly amended. Claim 15 is canceled, thus its rejection is moot. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 13 and 14 comply with 35 U.S.C. § 101, and request withdrawal of the rejection thereunder.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

On page 3 of the Office Action, claims 1-5 and 8-15 were rejected under 35 U.S.C.

§ 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,509,974 (Hansen). Applicants respectfully

traverse.

Claim 1 is directed to an "apparatus for generating a workflow for making image

recording media recorded with images expressed by page data," and further recites, *inter alia*,

> a **workflow creator for creating the workflow** by deciding upon
> processes required in order to make the image recording media and parameter
> values for the required processes based on attributes designated by the designator,
> [comprising]
> a process content decider for **deciding upon processes required to make**
> **the image recording media and parameter values for the required processes**
> **based on attributes designated by the designator by referring to the rules and**
> **the environmental information.**

An apparatus according to claim 1 performs an automatic generation of the workflow, *i.e.*,

automatic generation of the procedural steps to make the image recording media from page data

constituting finally resulting matter. The workflow is generated automatically based on user

designated "attributes of the image recording media constituting finally resulting matter" and the

"environment for executing each process capable of being selected for making the image

recording media." As a result, the difficulty of creating a workflow is dramatically reduced

compared to conventional methods requiring significant human intervention. Also, the resulting

workflow is tailored to the attributes of the image recording media and environment for

executing each process.

In contrast, rather than disclosing automatic generation of a workflow, Hansen is directed

to effective management of a workflow (*see, e.g.*, col. 2, lines 12-13 ("an efficient system and

method for managing the production printing workflow")). Thus, the object of Hansen is to

efficiently control a workflow – on the precondition that the workflow already exists. However, Hansen offers no teaching or suggestion of automatically generating a workflow.

Page 4, lines 2-5, of the Office Action asserts that Hansen, col. 11, line 64 to col. 12, line 2, discloses "a workflow creator" as recited in claim 1. This portion of Hansen states:

> Tools are further provided by the workflow management software to support electronic versions of <u>tickets for specifying production output device instructions and parameters,</u> as well as other finishing steps which may or may not be automated, which are global to the document, e.g. job level features or global document attributes. (*emphasis added*)

However, such tickets are generated based on a workflow. However, even if such tickets are generated automatically from the workflow, Hansen does not disclose automatic generation of the workflow from which the tickets are derived, or doing so "based on attributes designated by the designator by referring to the rules and the environmental information," as recited in claim 1.

Also, although Hansen uses terms such as "automated" or "automatically," the use of such terms does not relate to automatic generation of the procedural steps of a workflow. For example, Hansen, col. 14, lines 28-30 states that "[w]orkflow objects can be defined to guide an operator through or automatically perform a series of procedural steps." This merely means that if a workflow object is defined in advance, rather than created as recited in the claims, then processes of the procedural steps can be done automatically. This does not teach or suggest that a workflow itself is generated automatically.

As Hansen does not disclose at least "a workflow creator," as recited in claim 1, it is unable to anticipate claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e). For much the same reasons, independent claims 10 and 13, which each recite, *inter alia*, "creating the workflow [comprising] deciding upon processes . . . based on the designated attributes by referring to the rules and the environmental information," are not anticipated by Hansen. Accordingly, Applicants

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respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) of claims 1, 10, and 13; dependent claims 2, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, and 14, which each incorporate the limitations of the respective independent claim upon which they depend; and canceled claims 3, 12, and 15, for which the rejection is moot.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

On page 6 of the Office Action, claims 6 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Hansen. Applicants respectfully traverse.

As discussed above, Hansen does not disclose at least "a workflow creator," as recited in claim 1. Double-clicking, as discussed on page 7 of the Office Action, and the teachings of Hansen, col. 10, lines 23-38, do not bridge this gap between claim 1 and Hansen. Thus, claim 1 is not obvious in view of Hansen. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) of dependent claims 6 and 7, as "dependent claims are nonobvious if the independent claims from which they depend are nonobvious." *In re Fritch*, 972 F.2d 1260, 1266 (Fed. Cir. 1992); *accord* MPEP § 2143.03 ("If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious").

Conclusion

In view of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, and respectfully request the Examiner's favorable reconsideration as to allowance. The Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' representative listed below.
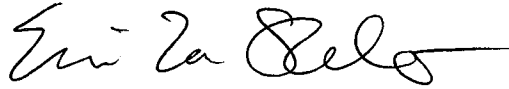
To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper,

including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 500417 and please credit any excess fees to

such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

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